कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) चूंकि कोकक्र कोयले की मांग उत्पादन से अधिक होती है, अत: देश में कोयले की मांग को पूरा करने हेतु अकोकक्र कोयले का पर्याप्त उत्पादन किया जाता है।

(ख) कोयला संरक्षण एवं विकास अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के अंतर्गत, कोकक्र कोयले पर प्रति टन 4.25 रु० और अकोकक्र कोयले पर प्रति टन 3.50 रु० उत्पादकर लगाया जाता है। इस उत्पाद कर से प्राप्त राशि का एक भाग उन स्थानों पर आधारभूत संरचना संबंधी सुविधाओं के लिए उपलब्ध करवाया जाता है जहां इसकी आवश्यकता है।

Increase in Demand and Supply Gap in Coal

3529. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the comparative increase in the demand and suppiy gap in coal at the end of the Eighth Plan period and whether it is anticipated to be widened by the end of the Ninth Plan period vis-a-vis the decline in the coal out put during the two plan periods;

(b) whether considering the existing coal mining scenario Government have considered the question of attracting serious investment for commercial coal mining projects in the country by private sector, both by domestic and foreign; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The demand and supply of coal at the end of the Eight Five Year Plan and as projected by the Planning Commission for the terminal year of the Ninth Five Year Plan are as given below:—

(In million tonnes)

Terminal Year	Demand	Supply	Gap
Eighth Five Year Plan (1996-97)	325.00	286.35	38.65
Ninth Five year Plan (2001-02)	412.20	370.60	41.60

Actually, the demand materialisation was only 286.35 millon tonnes in 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Coal mining by private sector is not permitted as per the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act 1973, except in cases of captive mining for end uses such as power generation, steel, sponge iron, and cement production. Captive mining permission have been given to 21 parties for 17 blocks.

Caving in of Kuju Coal Mines

3530. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some miners were burried alive and some were critically injured when a layer of number 36 Kuju coalmines of the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) caved on 9th June, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some inquiry has been instituted in the matter;

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to prevent such incidents in fututre;

(e) what compensation has been paid to the kith and kin of the dead; and

(f) the punishment given to the negligents in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) It has been reported by Coal India Limited (CIL) that in the third shift of 8th June, 1998, at about 1.15 A.M. (of 9.6.98) at 36th level junction of Kuju coal mine of Central